

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 44

Welcome to the California Botanical Society's 1997–1998 program year. As incoming President, on behalf of the Council and entire Society, I want to thank Wayne Ferren for successfully completing three years of service as President of the Society. Other new and returning Council Members for this program year include First Vice-President, Susan D'Alcamo; Second Vice-President, Diane Ikeda; Treasurer, Mary Butterwick; Past Treasurer, Holly Forbes; Corresponding Secretary, Sue Bainbridge; Recording Secretary, Roxanne Bittman; Council Members Tony Morosco, Jim Shevock, and Margriet Wetherwax; Graduate Student Representative, Staci Markos; Madroño Editor, Elizabeth Painter; and Conservation Chair, Niall McCarten. A society run by volunteers is only as good as its volunteer leadership and these are great ones! The Society thanks each of you!

Susan D'Alcamo organized an excellent slate of eight speakers for the 1997–98 Lecture Series. The lectures are held in the Valley Life Sciences Building on the University of California, Berkeley, campus and have been very well attended by members as well as many non-members. The Council appreciates the help of Staci Markos in expanding the Society's publicity of each meeting and also for helping with room reservations and the reception. An informal reception follows each presentation which allows an opportunity to mingle with the speaker, other botanists, and guests. Refreshments are furnished by the Jepson and University Herbaria. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the talks and receptions. The original concept for the reception came from Brent Mishler. We thank him and the Jepson and University Herbaria for providing space for the Council meetings, lecture series, and reception.

Diane Ikeda spent many hours organizing this year's Annual Banquet which will be held on 21 February 1998, at the Alumni House on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Ornduff, who is speaking on "The Roots of the California Flora".

Graduate Student Meetings are sponsored by the California Botanical Society every other year. They were last held in Claremont in 1996. Graduate Student Meetings will be held this year at University of California, Berkeley, on 21 February 1998. Our Graduate Student Representative, Staci Markos, was responsible for making arrangements for the meetings as well as for preparing announcements. Other Council Members (Sue Bainbridge, Roxanne Bittman, Tony Morosco, and Margriet Wetherwax) assisted her. Many thanks to her and all others who have worked on this project, for a job well-done.

The Society purchased a laptop computer with modem in 1997 to assist in maintaining our membership roster. An accurate, updated, easy-to-use membership list was seen as crucial to assisting the Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Editor. We encountered some problems implementing the new database in 1997, including a software bug, which resulted in errors to our membership list. Tony Morosco has temporarily taken responsibility for the new database, working with Mary Butterwick and Susan Bainbridge to fix problems associated with implementing the new program. We sincerely apologize to any members in good standing who were considered otherwise. Please let Mary know if there appears to be any problem with your membership status.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions Mary Butterwick has made during the transition from a cardfile to computer-based membership directory. As Corresponding Secretary, Susan Bainbridge has also been quite busy and very diligent in responding to requests for information from members and non-members. The Recording Secretary, Roxanne Bittman, has done an outstanding job of accurately recording the min-

utes as well as contributing to the Council meetings. The Society also appreciates the contributions of Editor Elizabeth Painter and Council Members Margriet Wetherwax, Tony Morosco, and Jim Shevock.

In response to a request from Brent Mishler, Tony Morosco volunteered to develop an Internet web page for the Society. We look forward to the availability of a web site as a means to increase communication and membership. The Council instituted two awards in 1997. An "Outstanding Service Award", for which any member is eligible, and a "Certificate of Appreciation" policy for Board Members, in recognition of their contributions to the organization. The ISBN and Library of Congress numbers were recently received for the "Eighty Year Index to Madroño". The Index will be available for purchase early in 1998.

Two of the benefits of membership in the California Botanical Society are receiving the quarterly journal *Madroño* and being able to publish in it. The cost of publishing *Madroño* remains the Society's greatest expense. Therefore, the Council decided that authors should be Society members throughout the publication process. Verifying membership requires monthly coordination among the Editor (Elizabeth Painter), Treasurer (Mary Butterwick), and Corresponding Secretary (Susan Bainbridge).

The Society is owed a considerable sum in unpaid *Madroño* page charges. To help recover these, the Council instituted a policy in early 1997 that precludes publication of manuscripts from authors who have outstanding page charges. The Council will continue to evaluate all procedures involved in producing a high quality journal. The Society appreciates the support and patience of the Council members as well as the membership while we work through these new procedures.

—R. JOHN LITTLE, Ph.D.